## REMARKS

In the last Office Action, restriction was required between the inventions characterized by the Examiner as Group I, claims 1-15 drawn to a method to produce rusticle consortia in a controlled environment, Group II, claim 16, drawn to a therapeutic substance comprising rusticle consortia, Group III, claim 17 drawn to a therapeutic substance produced by rusticle consortia, Group IV, claim 18, drawn to an antimicrobial substance comprising rusticle consortia, and Group V, claim 19 drawn to an antibiotic substance comprising rusticle consortia. The Examiner stated that the method invention of Group I is patentably distinct from the product inventions of Groups II-V and that the product inventions of Groups II-V are patentably distinct one from the other, thereby making restriction proper.

In accordance with this response, applicants have elected the method invention of Group I and list claims 1-11 and 15 as being readable on the elected invention. Claims 12-14 have been canceled. In addition, claims 3-10 have been amended to place them in better form for examination.

In view of the foregoing, early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**MAILING CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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OCTOBER 2, 2006
Date